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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Subprogramme 1. Intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships	3
Subprogramme 2. Policy and programme activities	5
Legislative mandates	7

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Overall orientation

14.1 The direction of the programme is provided in General Assembly resolution 64/289, by which the Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as a composite entity. The strategic plan of UN-Women for 2011-2013 (UNW/2011/9) was endorsed by the UN-Women Executive Board in June 2011.

14.2 Also in resolution 64/289, the General Assembly set out a framework for the work of the programme drawing on the Charter of the United Nations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its 12 critical areas of concern, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is the principal international human rights treaty relating to the practical realization of equality between women and men. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women provide guidance for the normative support functions; the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board provide guidance for the operational activities.

14.3 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of UN-Women, is to achieve the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment and advancement of women; and the realization of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The programme contributes to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, with a particular emphasis on Millennium Development Goal 3. In addition, UN-Women supports gender equality dimensions of all the other Millennium Development Goals, in particular through support to Member States at the national level, at their request.

14.4 During the 2014-2015 period, the programme is expected to continue to concentrate its efforts on the following key focus areas: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded; (c) preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace and security and humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets to gender equality at all levels; and (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment.

14.5 As it delivers support in those areas, the programme will drive more effective and efficient United Nations system coordination and partnerships for gender equality. The programme will carry out its work in coordination with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in order to avoid duplication of work, including the offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in the areas of peace and security. It will provide overall leadership and will strengthen coordination mechanisms, such as thematic inter-agency bodies at the

global, regional and national levels, and also further enhance coordination tools, such as system-wide action plans to enhance accountability.

14.6 The programme of work of UN-Women is guided by its strategic plan for 2011-2013. While the existing strategic plan is time-bound, it is driven by a longer-term vision, goals and expected results reaching to 2017, and by the principle of universality in the delivery of its work. The programme's strategic framework for 2014-2015 follows the anticipated direction of the new UN-Women strategic plan envisaged for 2014-2017 and is fully aligned with that longer-term vision. Any changes to the present strategic framework that might become necessary as a result of the 2014-2017 strategic plan would be submitted in due course for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

14.7 The strategy for implementing the programme in the period 2014-2015 is centred on bringing together the normative support, advocacy, coordination, operational and capacity development, training and research functions to ensure an even greater impact from United Nations support in these areas. The fulfilment of the overall orientation will result from expanding support provided to Member States, upon their request; strengthening coherence between the normative support provided to global intergovernmental processes and the technical and thematic advice provided to national partners at the country level; and leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. Support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system is an integral part of the programme's strategy.

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships

Objective of the Organization: To increase intergovernmental action and ensure strong partnerships and effective coordination on gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives in all political, economic and social spheres	(a) (i) Number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States in the deliberation of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women (ii) Number of advisory services provided to Member States for reporting on actions taken in areas related to the priority themes of the Commission
(b) More effective participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women	(b) Number of activities of UN-Women aimed at supporting the participation of non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women

(c) Increased capacity of the United Nations system entities to mainstream gender perspectives and to undertake targeted measures to empower women in policies and programmes of the United Nations system in a coherent way	(c) (i) Number of initiatives taken by United Nations entities, individually and/or collaboratively, to incorporate gender perspectives in their policies, programmes and projects (ii) Number of human resources policy measures advocated and/or assisted by UN-Women in United Nations system entities that incorporate gender perspectives in their implementation
(d) Enhanced capacity to build partnerships for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women	(d) (i) Number of activities aimed at different stakeholders contributing to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (ii) Amount of resources mobilized as voluntary contributions to UN-Women

Strategy

14.8 The Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting commitments and actions of Member States and intergovernmental bodies for the full and effective implementation of mandates relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes, especially those emanating from the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Providing substantive and effective support to intergovernmental processes, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women, through the facilitation of discussion on key gender equality issues by stakeholders from Governments, civil society, the United Nations system and academia, as well as other experts;

(c) Supporting intergovernmental processes to increase the reflection of gender perspectives in sectoral global policy and normative frameworks through the provision of innovative proposals and the facilitation of the involvement of civil society;

(d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information dissemination activities and outreach to stakeholders using different channels such as websites, social media and print products;

(e) Supporting the involvement and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups, in the work of the United Nations on gender equality and the

empowerment of women, through the facilitation of participation, consultations, awareness-raising and outreach;

(f) Leading and supporting system-wide and inter-agency collaboration on gender equality and the empowerment of women through the creation of synergy and coherence and the promotion of joint action; collaboration in United Nations country teams and their gender theme groups; and facilitation of the establishment and use of accountability frameworks on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(g) Supporting the improvement of the status of women and the achievement of gender balance within the United Nations system through advocacy and monitoring of progress towards gender balance and a gender-sensitive work environment within the United Nations system;

(h) Building and strengthening strategic partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to achieve a robust resource base for the programme.

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization: To accelerate the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced policy support for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women	(a) (i) Number of actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women (ii) Number of activities carried out by UN-Women to support the initiatives of United Nations system entities related to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda

(b) Enhanced support to national actors, including national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations, for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment and the protection of women's human rights	(b) (i) Number of countries supported, upon their request, through capacity development, in incorporating gender equality in their national plans and strategies, legal frameworks and policies, programmes and projects, in line with relevant commitments (ii) Number of countries supported by UN-Women, upon their request, through capacity development, in increasing the availability of national sex-disaggregated data
(c) Increased capacity to lead and coordinate the United Nations system at the country level in supporting Member States in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality	(c) (i) Number of United Nations coordination mechanisms on gender equality led or co-led by UN-Women at the national level (ii) Number of United Nations development frameworks and programmes at the country level formulated and implemented with the participation and/or assistance of UN-Women

Strategy

14.9 The Policy and Programme Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Serving as a global centre of knowledge- and experience-sharing on gender equality and the empowerment of women, through research, analysis and evaluation of trends, including on new and emerging issues and their impact on the situation of women;

(b) Providing technical and thematic advice and programmatic support to Member States, at their request, including through regional and country offices, to enhance their capacity to develop, implement, monitor, review and evaluate their gender equality policies, strategies and action plans and to incorporate gender perspectives in sectoral areas;

(c) Providing advocacy support, training and capacity development to Member States, at their request, to advance the implementation of commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in line with their national priorities;

(d) Providing leadership, technical expertise and coordination support to United Nations country teams and regional teams, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

34/180	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
50/42	Fourth World Conference on Women
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
54/4	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
54/134	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
S-23/2	Political declaration
S-23/3	Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
59/164	Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
62/136	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
64/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
64/289	System-wide coherence
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
65/187	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
65/189	International Widows' Day
65/190	Trafficking in women and girls
65/259	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011
66/128	Violence against women migrant workers
66/129	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
66/130	Women and political participation
66/132	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
66/170	International Day of the Girl Child
66/216	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

76 (V)	Communications concerning the status of women
304 (XI)	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (fourth session)
1992/19	Communications on the status of women
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations
1999/257	Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate
2005/232	Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
2006/9	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2009/15	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2009/16	Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women
2011/6	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2011/18	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions and ministerial declarations

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (see A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV.A)
	Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women (see A/65/3/Rev.1, chap. III.F)

Security Council resolutions

1325 (2000)	Women and peace and security
1820 (2008)	Women and peace and security
1888 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1889 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1960 (2010)	Women and peace and security

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

1996	Resolution 40/9. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern: poverty
1996	Women and the media
1996	Child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities
1997	Women and the environment
1997	Women in power and decision-making
1997	Women and the economy
1997	Education and training of women
1998	Violence against women
1998	Women and armed conflict
1998	Human rights of women
1998	The girl child
1999	Women and health
1999	Institutional mechanisms
2001	Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
2001	Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
2002	Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world
2002	Environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters
2003	Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women
2004	The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality
2004	Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding
2006	Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work
2006	Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels
2007	Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child
2008	Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

2009	**The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS**
2011	**Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work**

Executive Board decisions

2011/3	**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013**
2011/4	**Least developed countries**